



Genre study: Fiction vs. Science Fiction

Compare & Contrast

Leadership character traits- Kindness and Bravery

Materials:

Wombat Said Come In (2022) by Carmen Agra Deedy

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting

Star Wars- Jedi Brave in Every Way (2023) by Rosemary & Charles Soule

Chart paper or board

Lesson:

- Have students tell you how they know the characters are kind. (Examples are given by teacher.)
- Have students tell you how the characters are brave by listing the things that occurred in the story.
- Draw a dividing line in the middle of chart paper or board.
- Write the title of a book on each side of the paper.
- Chart the student responses in list format on paper or board under each title.

Use discussion lesson plan included with the story for *Wombat Said Come In*.

This book could also be compared or read with the exceptional book, *Smoky Night* because they both deal with fear, fire and finding a safe place with friends.



Genre study: Fiction vs. Nonfiction

Compare & contrast the following two books.
Share the video of March With the Penguins (nonfiction)

Materials:

- Just Snow Already!* (2023) by Howard McWilliam
- The Snowman Waltz* (2022) by Karen Konnerth
- March of the Penguins* (2005) nonfiction video
- Venn Diagram- two Hoo-la hoops overlapping a board or chart paper

Discussions:

1. What is different between the two books? What is the same?
2. Use a Venn diagram to show the differences and the similarities.
3. How is the life of the penguins different between the real penguins and the fictional penguins dancing in the forest with the snowmen from the book, *The Snowman Waltz*?
4. Demonstrate with the students how to do a waltz step by using the diagram steps in the back of the book. Listen to a waltz on the web.
5. What happened in the story, *Just Snow Already!*, while the child was waiting on the snow?
6. Did anything happen in the illustrations to tell us a story that was not written in words? Explain how important the illustrations are in telling the story.
7. *March of the Penguins* video allows students to see real penguins and learn about the life cycle of the penguins. It shows the determination and struggle for survival of the penguin in the icy environment of Antarctica. Discuss how the father penguin helps take care of the young penguin.



Genre: Fiction

Topics:

Compare & Contrast one day in the life of a cat and the life of a dog.
Look at the point of view from the cat vs. owner and the dog's point of view.
Sequencing events in a story.
How important is stretching or exercising for your health?

Materials:

Cat's Very Good Day (2023) by Kristen Tracy and illustrated by David Small
Stretch Like Scarlet (2020) by Emily Liner and illustrated by John Clark IV
Alexander and the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Discussion:

- Discuss the lives of the two different animals and what kind of day they had.
- Sequence the events in the day or write the sequences on sentence strips to have students arrange in proper order, depending on the grade level.
- When sequencing the story, what event happens first? What happens in the middle? What happens last or at the end of the story?
- How did the cat feel about having to go outside in the book, *Cat's Very Good Day*?
- Read *Alexander and the Horrible No Good Bad Day* and compare it to the *Cat's Very Good Day*.
- How can having a pet in your family make people happy?
- Why do you think it is good to stretch and exercise? Do you exercise or do stretches or know someone that does? How does it make the person feel?



Genre: Folktale Fiction (not real) vs. Realistic Fiction (almost like real)

Topics:

Conflict Resolution

Characters from both stories have a conflict or problem and search to find the answer.

Materials:

Moonsong (2021) by Denise Gallagher

The Pink Ribbon (2022) by Rashida Marshall, illustrated by Gabrielle & Raven Marshall

Discussions:

- Which story is realistic fiction?
- Which story is a folktale?
- In the beginning the main character of each of these two books realize they have something to worry about. What worries do you have? How can you work on your own worries?
- Predicting what will happen- Do you think the moon will ever come back in the story, *Moonsong*?
- Who are the main characters in the story?
- What is the conflict or problem in each story?
- How do the characters feel at the end of the story?
- Did you ever go with a friend or family member to see a doctor? Did you ever have a checkup with your doctor?



Genre: Fiction with threads of healthy living

Topics:

- Growing a garden
- Learning about seeds
- Watching and waiting for the plants to grow
- How to teach others about eating healthy when you have a gluten allergy or celiac disease.
- How does a worm grow and help the garden?
- Who is Ezra Jack Keats? What does his medal mean on a book?

Materials:

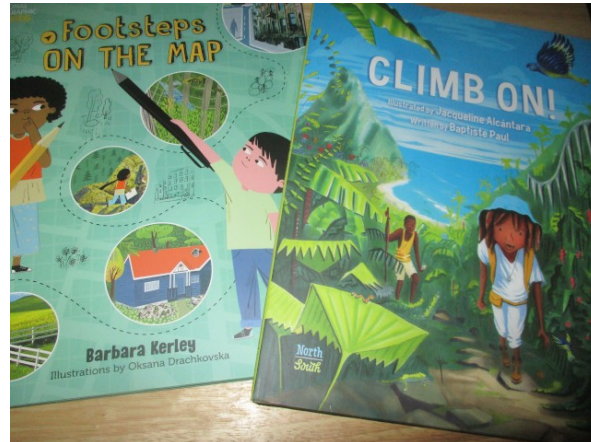
The Garden We Share (2022) by Zoe Tucker, illustrated by Julianna Swaney
Violet and the Crumbs: A Gluten-Free Adventure (2022) by Abigail Rayner
How To Say Hello to A Worm by Kari Percival (2022) Ezra Jack Keats book award

Discussion:

- Why does Violet hate to go to parties?
- How does she help solve her problem?
- What treasure is found in the book about gardens? (answer- seeds)
- What covers the seeds in the garden? (answer- blanket of soil)
- Why does the garden look like a rainbow? (answer- all the various colors of flowers)
- Have you ever planted seeds or grown a garden?
- Why is growing food so important? (Answer- we eat leaves and plants to survive.)

Activity:

Have students plant a seed to watch it grow. You may also send seeds with child to their teacher or let them take it home.



Genre: Adventure and travel with a Map

Topics:

- Reading and drawing maps
- Exploring with loved ones
- Perseverance
- Enjoy the vibrant illustrations and details of the drawings

Materials:

Climb On! (2022) Illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara, written by Baptiste Paul
Footsteps on the Map (2023) by Barbara Kerley
Me On the Map by Joan Sweeney

Activities:

- Draw your playground on a map.
- Draw a map of your room or classroom
- Name the continents on the map of our world. (Example in *Footsteps on the Map*)
- What do you do when you want to accomplish something but are tired?
- Do your parents help you complete tasks when you are too tired?
- Describe the habitat in which the child and father are traveling.
- What is the setting in the story *Climb on!*



Genre: Fiction vs. Nonfiction

Topics:

- Sloths
- Rescue of animals
- Mindfulness

Materials:

Destiny Finds Her Way (2023) by Margarita Engle, photos by Sam Trull
Mindful Mr. Sloth (2022) by Katy Hudson

Discussion or written response:

1. What is Destiny's habitat? What is the setting? (Answer- the tropical rain forest)
2. Who rescues Destiny? (Answer- A family finds her and gives her to a scientist to help her survive.)
3. Who finds Mr. Sloth? (Answer- Sasha finds Mr. Sloth.)
4. Where did Sasha find Mr. Sloth? (Answer- On top of the tree house)
5. What are some of the other animals in the forest with Destiny?
6. What kind of milk is given to one Sloth to help it survive? (Answer- goat milk)
7. What does Mr. Sloth teach Sasha?

Answers to questions above:

1. The tropical rain forest is the habitat and a rescue center.
2. A family rescues Destiny and gives her to a scientist.
3. Sasha finds Mr. Sloth.
4. Sasha finds Mr. Sloth on top of the tree house.
5. There are colorful birds called toucans, howler monkeys and cicadas and others.
6. Goat milk is given to one of the other rescued monkeys.



Genre: Fiction

Topics:

- New Mississippi Flag
- New song for Mississippi
- Mississippi State Bird
- Mississippi State Tree & Flower
- How to explore the world digitally
- ISTE Standards for being a digital explorer

Materials:

One Mississippi (2022) by Steve Azare, illustrated by Sarah Frances Hardy
Sonia's Digital World (2024) by Shannon McClintock Miller, illustrated by Clara Reschke

Discussion:

- Explore and learn about Mississippi using the book, *One Mississippi* and the lesson plan by Sarah Frances Hardy.
- Learn how to be a Digital Explorer
- Become familiar with the ISTE Standards